

Modi called the U.S. decision "an insult to India and its Constitution." In a public address in Ahmedabad, he lashed out at the United States.

"A man from Gujarat was thrown out of a train in South Africa. This led to a movement that overthrew the British Empire," Modi thundered, in a reference to Mahatma Gandhi. "Let us pledge to work for such a day that an American would have to stand in line for entry into Gujarat," he added.

"The United States can't impose its laws on other countries. In the same way, India should deny visas to U.S. officials as a protest against Washington's policies in Iraq," Modi said.

"On what basis has the U.S. decided this?" Modi asked. "Where has the U.S. got its information from? The American government should know that every state in India is ruled by the Constitution and no one can violate that. No court has indicted the Gujarat government or the CM of complicity in the incidents that took place in the state."

If the Pakistani president and the Bangladesh prime minister could visit the U.S., two countries in which minorities have suffered, Modi said he could be admitted too.

TRIBUTE TO SHERMAN W. DREISESZUN

HON. DENNIS MOORE

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 6, 2005

Mr. MOORE of Kansas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Sherman W. Dreiseszun, of Leawood, Kansas, who on May 14, 2005, at Kehilath Israel Synagogue of Overland Park, Kansas, will celebrate his Second Bar Mitzvah.

On May 25, 1935, at Voliner Synagogue of Overland Park, Sherman W. Dreiseszun, the son of Sam and Bertha Dreiseszun, was called to the Torah to celebrate his Bar Mitzvah and take his place as an adult in the Jewish Community.

The Old Testament defines a person's life as three score and ten (seventy years). Since the age of Bar Mitzvah is thirteen, when a man has the good fortune to reach his eighty-third birthday, he has earned the right to celebrate his Second Bar Mitzvah.

Sherman's commitment to Judaism and to Kehilath Israel Synagogue was deeply rooted in the promise he made during his service in World War II. Sherman was a waist gunner in the Air Force, and the plane to which he was assigned was forced to ditch in the Atlantic. While in the ocean, hoping to be rescued, Sherman pledged that if he was saved from that peril, he would commit himself to Judaism, his Synagogue, and to the Jewish community.

Sherman made good on that promise, first by becoming the youngest President of Kehilath Israel to ever hold that position in 1959 and 1960, and then being re-elected President in 1978 for an additional term. He has worked for and led numerous organizations, reaching out to improve individual lives in the Jewish community. Sherman's dynamic work on behalf of Kehilath Israel, the Jewish community and the overall Kansas City community has created a new face for the entire metropolitan landscape.

Sherman has been the backbone and the lifeline for Kehilath Israel Synagogue. To show

the respect that the congregation has for Sherman, he has been designated as Honorary President for Life.

On July 7, 1946, Sherman married Irene Friedman. Irene and Sherman will be celebrating their 59th wedding anniversary this summer. Irene also will be celebrating her 80th birthday on August 25, 2005.

Irene and Sherman are the parents of the late Barbara Dreiseszun, the late Richard Dreiseszun; daughter-in-law Gail Dreiseszun of Shawnee Mission, Kansas; and of daughter and son-in-law Helone and Marshall Abrams of Denver, Colorado. Their grandchildren Brooke and James Levy and Erica and Evan Fisher all reside in New York City.

Mr. Speaker, I thank you for this opportunity to pay public tribute to Sherman W. Dreiseszun, who has been the backbone and the lifeline of both his Synagogue and his community at large. I congratulate him on his upcoming Second Bar Mitzvah and congratulate him and Irene on their upcoming 59th anniversary.

COMMEMORATING THE LIFE OF ZURAB ZHVANIA, PRIME MINISTER OF THE REPUBLIC OF GEORGIA

SPEECH OF

HON. ENI F.H. FALEOMAVEGA

OF AMERICAN SAMOA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 5, 2005

Mr. FALEOMAVEGA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Res. 108, commemorating the life of the late Prime Minister of the Republic of Georgia, Zurab Zhvania. I commend my colleagues, Mr. GALLEGLY, Mr. SMITH, and Mr. WEXLER, for introducing this resolution and I am proud to be a cosponsor. I want to thank them for providing us an opportunity to recognize the life and contributions of Prime Minister Zhvania to the cause of freedom.

Mr. Speaker, on February 3 of this year, the Republic of Georgia suffered a tremendous loss with the untimely passing of their Prime Minister, Zurab Zhvania. An academic and unlikely political hero, Zhvania was elected to the Georgian national parliament in 1992, after the collapse of the Soviet Union. His passion and his eloquence brought him to the attention of Eduard Shevardnadze, and eventually to the office of Speaker of the Georgian Parliament. A champion of democracy and freedom of the press, Zhvania distanced himself from Shevardnadze and joined a party of young reformers who brought about the Rose Revolution in 2003. As the Prime Minister, Zhvania led the economic and social reform efforts that have transformed the lives of the Georgian people.

His visionary leadership in guiding the Republic of Georgia as it reached independence, his commitment to the development of core democratic values, and his tremendous courage in the face of adversity, will make the late Prime Minister Zurab Zhvania a towering figure in the history of the independent Republic of Georgia.

IN HONOR OF SIBLINGS DAY

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 6, 2005

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to salute Siblings Day, a day to honor our brothers and sisters for the many ways in which they enhance our lives. This celebration gives us the opportunity to show our appreciation for our siblings, much like Mother's Day and Father's Day are celebrated. Siblings Day was founded by my constituent, Claudia Evart. Ms. Evart has worked tirelessly to promote the observance of Sibling's Day on April 10th.

Siblings make important contributions to our lives, and often, when our parents have passed away, siblings are our only remaining family. Siblings Day helps us remember the integral role brothers and sisters play in our lives, and it also provides an opportunity to remember siblings who we have lost at an early age.

April 10th marks the birthday of Claudia's sister, Lisette, who died tragically in 1972 at age 19 in a car accident that also killed their father. An additional tragedy struck in 1987, when Ms. Evart's older brother, Alan, died in an accident at his home. He was 36 years old.

According to the Siblings Day Foundation, Siblings Day was recently marked in 22 states (Arkansas, Colorado, Connecticut, Florida, Illinois, Kansas, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Missouri, Mississippi, Nebraska, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New Mexico, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Carolina, Virginia, West Virginia, and Wisconsin); the governor of each of these states proclaimed the 10th of April to be Siblings Day.

I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the importance of family by saluting the contributions of siblings. I applaud the work of Claudia Evart, who has created a loving tribute to her deceased siblings through her work to establish Siblings Day. Her dedication should serve as an inspiration to us all.

IN CELEBRATION OF NCAA DIVISION II MEN'S BASKETBALL NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP

HON. ROBERT C. SCOTT

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 6, 2005

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, along with my colleague, Representative ERIC CANTOR, I rise with great pride to call attention to a group of young students who have distinguished themselves, their school, their community, and the Commonwealth of Virginia.

The Virginia Union University Panthers men's basketball team had a remarkable season and we believe the Panthers deserve formal recognition for their accomplishments. On March 26, 2005, the Virginia Union University Panthers won the NCAA Division II Men's Basketball National Championship. The Panthers completed their 2005 season with an impressive 30-4 record.

To quote from Virginia Union's hometown newspaper, the Richmond Times-Dispatch, "Those [Virginia Union's] starters, none over

6–6 or heavier than 223 pounds, carried the Panthers all year past bigger, stronger opponents. . . . It is perhaps the most belabored sports cliché, but when the Panthers looked at each other, they saw a whole greater than the sum of its parts.”

En route to their championship victory in Grand Forks, North Dakota, the Panthers won their second straight CIAA Championship on Saturday, March 5, 2005. Their remarkable season carries on the tradition of championship basketball at Virginia Union, which now has 15 CIAA Championships and three National Championships.

Founded in 1865, Virginia Union University is an Historically Black University dedicated to providing educational equity to African-Americans. Virginia Union welcomes diversity among its faculty and staff as well as its student body. In its founding days, Virginia Union's academic missions and social visions were ahead of their time. Now, more than a century later, Virginia Union University is still an innovating and inspiring place for college students and scholar athletes.

My colleague ERIC CANTOR and I would like to extend our enthusiastic congratulations to the Virginia Union University players and their families, Coach Robbins and the rest of his coaching staff, Virginia Union alumni, and the entire Virginia Union community for their remarkable accomplishment.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JIM DAVIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 6, 2005

Mr. DAVIS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, on roll-call No. 91, had I been present, I would have voted “yes.”

RECOGNIZING THE ACHIEVEMENTS OF HAYS COUNTY SHERIFF DON MONTAGUE

HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 6, 2005

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the important achievements of Hays County Sheriff Don Montague, of my Congressional District.

Don Montague was elected Hays County Sheriff in 1996, and was re-elected in 2000. As a fourth generation Hays County resident, he began his law enforcement career in 1967 when he joined the Highway Patrol and he rose quickly through the ranks of Hays Counties finest. He has served prior posts as a Patrol Officer, Field Deputy, Sergeant, Lieutenant, and Captain. Sheriff Montague was instrumental in forming and commanding the Hays County Drug Task Force.

Under Sheriff Montague's administration, the sheriff's department has evolved into a thriving, highly successful, and professional organization with unprecedented personnel and equipment growth. He currently holds a Master Proficiency Certificate and Instructors License with the Texas Commission on Law Enforcement Officers Standards and Education.

Sheriff Montague is a man who believes in the value of community involvement and intervention. He is a past director of the Sheriffs Association of Texas, a past President of the Texas Capital Area Law Enforcement Association, a past President Hays County Criminal Justice Association, a member of the Texas Crime Prevention Association, and member of the Texas Narcotics Officers Association. Don Montague is an example of proactive law enforcement in our communities.

Along with his many contributions to the people of Hays County, Sheriff Don Montague has been married to his lovely wife, Harpie, for 36 years and has 3 children and 5 grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, Sheriff Montague has enriched the community with his vision and I am proud to have this opportunity to thank him.

A TRIBUTE TO ROBERT RODRIGUEZ

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 6, 2005

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise in honor of Robert Rodriguez who is being honored at the Brooklyn Caribe Lions Club dinner dance as “Mortgage Broker of the Year.”

Robert is a successful mortgage broker who was born in Ponce, Puerto Rico. His father, Higinio Rodriguez, was working for the Brooklyn Navy Yard many years ago when he sent for his wife, Rafaela Santos-Rodriguez and family, including a very young Robert who was three years old.

Robert attended Brooklyn College, majored in psychology and later obtained his real estate mortgage and insurance broker's licenses. He also served in the U.S. Marine Corps and received an Honorable Discharge.

Among many enterprises, he opened up Sunset Park Real Estate in 1980. It became a very successful and inspirational real estate firm in an up and coming neighborhood. In 1987, he became a founding member and President of the Fifth Avenue Merchants Association in 1987. Later, he was instrumental in converting that association to The Business Improvement District of Sunset Park. During this period, he became (and continues to be) a member of The Bay Ridge Board of Realtor and a member of the New York Association of Mortgage Brokers. Presently, he is President and sole owner of Dinero Mortgage & Funding Corp. located in Sunset Park. By helping people obtain a mortgage, Robert has personally helped many minorities in accomplishing their dreams of obtaining a home for themselves and their loved ones.

Robert is married to Julie Cardinale Rodriguez, a Loan Officer for Countrywide Mortgage. He has three children, Lisa, Robert Jr. and Shelly along with seven grandchildren. Robert is a wonderful example of how hard work and perseverance can lead to success. May this award inspire and encourage him to continue the important work he has already begun.

Mr. Speaker, Robert Rodriguez has been a leader in his community by building a successful business and helping his fellow community members realize their dream of homeownership. As such, he is more than worthy of re-

ceiving our recognition today and the award of Mortgage Broker of the Year. Thus, I urge my colleagues to join me in honoring this truly remarkable person.

TRIBUTE TO KANSAS CITY, KANSAS, SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS, DR. RAY DANIELS

HON. DENNIS MOORE

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 6, 2005

Mr. MOORE of Kansas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Dr. Ray Daniels, superintendent of the Kansas City, Kansas, school system, who is retiring after a distinguished career as an educator and administrator.

As superintendent of the Kansas City, Kansas, Public Schools for the last eight years, Dr. Ray Daniels has been called “the model for what superintendents could and should be.” He has devoted his entire professional career to the Kansas City school district.

This distinguished career began at Northwest Junior High School in 1965 where he worked as an English teacher and head boys' basketball coach. He later joined the faculty at Wyandotte High School and served as head track coach. Dr. Daniels worked his way up as an assistant principal at Wyandotte in 1973 and became Director of Personnel for the school district in 1976. He was named Assistant Superintendent for Personnel Services in 1980.

When appointed superintendent in March 1998, Dr. Daniels immediately worked to close the achievement gap for minority students and students living in poverty, and to correct low student achievement, high dropout rates, unsafe schools, and poor attendance. He is recognized as being ahead of the curve, implementing reforms in his district long before the trend of stronger accountability became popular across the country. Dr. Daniels' efforts have paid dividends for Kansas City schools and our community. His district continues to see significant progress in reading and math achievement.

He has provided leadership and served on numerous community organizations including the KCK Area Chamber of Commerce, United Way of Wyandotte County, Heart of America Family Services, Cancer Action, the Wyandotte Health Foundation, Metropolitan Lutheran Ministries, and the Downtown KCK Kiwanis Club.

Dr. Daniels has earned the respect and trust of the community as he has led his district in becoming one of the most successful examples of urban school reform in America. The Kansas Association of School Administrators named Dr. Daniels the 2005 Kansas Superintendent of the Year and he was a candidate for the National Superintendent of the Year honor. Dr. Daniels was also named “Educator of the Year” by Young Audiences.

There is probably not a tougher job than serving as a superintendent of an urban school district and not a better person for the job these last eight years than Dr. Ray Daniels.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the citizens and parents of Kansas City, Kansas, I say to Dr. Ray Daniels: thank you for your service to our community and our children. You will be missed!